

## Songs of the Kingdom 2 – Psalm 45

### Psalm 45 Overview

- A love song showing how those who serve Jesus will be drawn to His beauty, like a bride is drawn to her groom
- Written over 1000 years before Jesus
- It's a love song about the wedding of a king
  - Probably written for a wedding of one of Israel's kings, most likely Solomon
- Main Message = The wedding is a time of celebration as the queen leaves her people and joins the king, both to begin something new together
  - Prophetically, the NT says this Psalm is about the Messiah, King Jesus, receiving a people as His Bride

Psalm 45: Intro - To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah; a love song.

- These lines were most likely not original but added very early on as the Psalms were compiled into hymnals to be used in worship
- “a love song” – This song is a love song, celebrating the wedding of the writer's king

Vs. 1 - My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

- “overflow” = to bubble up, to boil over... to be constantly stirring...
  - A Hebrew words for “to prophesy” (nabi) means “to bubble up”
  - The author's heart is bubbling over with emotion
- This is About the Messiah
  - On one level, this Psalm is about an earthly king... but there's something unique about this king
  - This King is Unique
    - The king is referred to as an earthly, human king (vs. 1)... but also as “God” (vs. 6)
    - The writer refers to the king as “God” (vs. 6)... but also as someone distinct from God (vs. 2)
    - The only person in all of history who fits the bill is Jesus
    - Hebrews 1:7-9 - 7 Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” 8 But of the Son he says “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”
- Prophetic Symbolism
  - The king = Jesus
  - The bride = the Church, the Bride of Christ
  - The wedding = historically, the birth of the Church... individually, our entrance into a relationship with Jesus

Vs. 2a - You are the most handsome of the sons of men...

- “handsome” = word can mean “beautiful” in a physical sense or a metaphorical sense
- Here, it's used metaphorically, to talk about the superiority of this king / Jesus

Vs. 2b - ... grace is poured upon your lips...

- Luke 4:22 - And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth...
- John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Vs. 2c - ... therefore God has blessed you forever.

- This King, who is God, is somehow separate from God. No one but Jesus can fit this description.
- John 20:17 - ...“I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”
- John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Vs. 3-5 - 3 Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and majesty! 4 In your majesty ride out victoriously for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; let your right hand teach you awesome deeds! 5 Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; the peoples fall under you.

- 1) There is nowhere here any doubt that the king will be victorious. His enemies will be vanquished
- 2) The king is fighting for “the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness”
  - He’s not simply fighting against things he dislikes
  - Jesus is fighting for things that others don’t fight for. His kingdom is altogether different.
    - NRSV – “ride on victoriously for the cause of truth, and to defend the right”
- 3) Notice the king’s weapons - his sword and his arrows
  - Sword = word of God
    - Jesus defeats His enemies through His words filled with grace
    - Revelation 19:15-21 – Jesus is making war on His enemies, slaying them with a sword coming out of His mouth
  - Arrows
    - Prayers?
      - Jesus lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25)
      - The Father told Jesus to ask for the nations for his inheritance (Psalm 2:8)
    - The people of God?
      - Psalm 127:4 - Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.
- 4) Look at what the king’s right hand is doing
  - Vs. 4 - ...let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!
    - “teach” = can be translated “to show, to demonstrate”
  - Vs. 9 – “...at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.”
  - The king’s bride is doing awesome deeds... ie. the Bride of Christ will do awesome deeds (like the “greater works” of John 14:12)

Vs. 6a - Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...

- No human king can have a throne that lasts forever and ever. This statement can only apply to God.

Vs. 6b - ...the scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

- “scepter” = a symbol of a king’s authority / right to rule
- “uprightness” = word often translated “plateau, plain, level place”
  - ie. He has a legitimate right to rule
- Genesis 49:10 - The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.
  - “until tribute comes to him” = sometimes translated “until the arrival of the one to whom it belongs”
  - The right to rule will lie with Judah until the one with the righteous scepter (the Messiah) comes

Vs. 7 - you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

- Proverbs 8:13 - The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.
- This King will walk in the fear of God... and because of that, He will be joyful

- Jeremiah 33:9 - And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it.
  - As God restores Jerusalem, the nations fear God and rejoice

Vs. 8a - your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia...

- There is a beautiful fragrance / aura about this bridegroom king
- 2 Corinthians 2:15-16 - 15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

Vs. 8b - ...from ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;

- King Ahab had a palace of ivory (1 Kings 22:39), which has led some to believe this Psalm was written for him
- But ivory houses were not uncommon among the rich nobility (Amos 3)
  - Amos 6 talks about even the beds of the rich being made of ivory
- There is a splendor and majesty about this king

Vs. 9a - daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor...

- “ladies of honor” = other translations say “honored attendants,” “women of your court,” “concubines”
- This king would have elite people of power and nobility coming to him and serving him
  - Just as Jesus has had since He came to earth till now

Vs. 9b - ...at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

- “gold of Ophir”
  - During Solomon’s time, Israel took in vast quantities of gold from the region of Ophir (probably Arabia or India)
  - This gold was the finest quality gold you could get
  - The queen is beautiful, radiant, majestic, full of glory and splendor...
- Look where the queen stands – “at your right hand”
  - This is a place of authority and honor... she’s a co-ruler with the king
- We as the Bride of Christ are called to be glorious and majestic... and to co-labor with Christ

Vs. 10-11 – 10 Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear: forget your people and your father's house; 11 and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him.

- In order to start this new relationship w/the king, 2 things must happen:
  - 1) The queen must leave her old life behind – forget her people and her father’s house
  - 2) Her father’s house must relinquish its hold on her
- Same goes for us, the church – we must leave who we used to be and who we used to be must let us go
- Jesus Expects We Leave Our Old Life...
  - We must deny ourselves and take up our cross daily (Luke 9:23)
  - We must love and serve Him with such intensity that others may feel offended and mistreated in comparison, even saying we “hate” them (Luke 14:26)
  - We must love Jesus more than our mother, father, son, or daughter (Matthew 10:37)
  - We must be ready to leave “houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands” for Him (Matthew 19:29)
- The Apostles Said the Same Thing...
  - Let go of what lies behind (Philippians 3:13-14)
  - Lay aside the sins and temptations that threaten to hold you back (Hebrews 12:1)
  - Put off the old man and put on the new man (Ephesians 4:22-24)
- Part of this we do (we choose to leave the old)... Part of this God does (He forces the old to let us go)

Vs. 12-15 – 12 The people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts, the richest of the people. 13 All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold. 14 In many-colored robes she is led to the king, with her virgin companions following behind her. 15 With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king.

- When the bride comes to the king, she's wearing appropriate clothing
  - "robes interwoven with gold"
    - Gold = often a symbol of both wealth and purity in Bible
    - Temple was covered in gold, items of the temple made of gold (bowls, altars, tables, trays...) (1 Kings 6-7)
    - Priests' garments were interwoven with gold (Exodus 39)
    - The streets of the New Jerusalem are made of gold... the city itself is said to be made of gold (Revelation 21)
- There is an expectation that the bride will be dressed in purity and holiness, sacred and set apart... same for us, the Bride of Christ
  - Revelation 19:7-8 - 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

Vs. 16-17 – 16 In place of your fathers shall be your sons; you will make them princes in all the earth. 17 I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

- "In place of your fathers shall be your sons..."
  - To the king, he's saying, "You've previously been seen as a son, but now you will be seen as a father... Your value will not be so much based on who you came from anymore but on who will come from you."
  - Thinking of Jesus, something shifted with Him and the birth of the church
    - Now it is less about His fathers and more about His sons... less about the Old Covenant and more about the New Covenant... less about the Law and more about the Spirit...
- This King (Jesus) will be a King for all peoples and nations
  - vs. 16 - His children will be "princes in all the earth"
  - vs. 17 - ...nations will praise you forever and ever
  - Revelation 7:9 - ...a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages...

#### Main Takeaway

- Jesus is our King and we are His Bride. To be joined to Him...
  - We need to leave our old life, like a bride leaving her father's house
  - Our old life must let us go, just as the father relinquishes his authority over his daughter
  - We need to take up a new life of righteousness, where we do good deeds in place of the selfish deeds we used to do
- So... if your life with Jesus doesn't look different from your life without Jesus, there's a problem that needs to be corrected.